This concludes the main self-guided tour. From the archway of Old College you are a 10 minute walk from Princes Street, and Waverley Train Station, however time permitting, we recommend extending your tour to include the following optional University sights. Upon exiting Old College turn right, and then left onto Drummond Street. Continue to the end of Drummond Street and cross the road at the pedestrian lights.

A The Pleasance / Pleasance Sport Centre & Gym

You will see the Pleasance Sport Centre and Gym straight ahead of you, which has undergone a £4.8 million extension and refurbishment. If you turn right, slightly further up the hill you will find the Pleasance complex on your left. Built by Alexander Paterson and Thomas Dott in 1791, it is used by the Students’ Association, as well as being a prominent venue during the fringe. Recently redeveloped, the building has various multipurpose spaces, as well as a theatre and bar.

Leaving the Pleasance by the main entrance, turn right, back down the hill, until you reach the crossroads at the bottom. Turn right and continue down Hollyrood Road.

B St Leonard’s Land / Moray House

On your right you will see St Leonard’s Land, which houses Physical Education and the University swimming pool. Directly across the road is Moray House School of Education. Further along Hollyrood Road, there is the Scottish Parliament, Holyrood Palace and Holyrood Park.

Retrace your steps back up Hollyrood Road to the crossroads. Go straight across the junction, onto the Cowgate. There is a narrow cobbled road (High School Wynd) on the left which leads steeply up to Infirmary Street. Walk up Hollyrood Road, follow the curve to the right. Cross the road at the top and you will find yourself back at the main entrance to Old College. With your back to the main entrance to Old College, turn left and left again onto Chambers Street.

C Chambers Street

In front of you, where the road splits, you will see the Bedlam Theatre. The former North Free Church was designed by architect Thomas Hamilton and built in 1846. In 1941 the church closed and the building is now home to the University of Edinburgh Theatre Company, showcasing over 40 productions every year. The name Bedlam is attributed to the building’s proximity to Edinburgh’s first mental health hospital.

Take the right hand fork onto Forrest Road, and continue to the traffic lights at the end. Cross to the left, down Tieviot Place. On your right walk through a large archway with iron gates.

D Bedlam Theatre

On your left you will see the Edinburgh Student Union. This Grade A listed building was a modernist neo-classical building built in 1955 and is used by the Edinburgh Student Union. The building is open to all students at the University. Walking at a leisurely pace with time to take in Edinburgh’s unique atmosphere and architecture, the tour should take no more than an hour. If you wish to extend the tour to include High School Yards, the Pleasance and Moray House School of Education, add approximately 30 minutes.

Look out for the various plaques around the University, which have been erected to commemorate the achievements of individuals who have been associated with the University through our 400 years. A map showing accessible routes and entrances can be downloaded from: www.ed.ac.uk/estates/buildings-information/disability

A warm welcome to the University of Edinburgh and the city of Edinburgh. The University has a number of sites within the city – this tour is for the Central area campus.

Any prospective student of our University will find this tour useful as this campus is also home to the Main Library, Students’ Association, Pleasance Sport Centre & Gym and a range of study spaces and other services that are open to all students at the University. Walking at a leisurely pace with time to take in Edinburgh’s unique atmosphere and architecture, the tour should take no more than an hour. If you wish to extend the tour to include High School Yards, the Pleasance and Moray House School of Education, add approximately 30 minutes.

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Standing with your back to the entrance of the glass box, to your left is the University of Edinburgh Business School. The building houses high quality teaching space for Business and Accounting students, and ‘The Exchange’ café.

Continue along George Square.

The next building on your left is the University’s largest lecture theatre: Gordon Aikman Lecture Theatre. Built in 1967, the theatre is used for teaching by a variety of subjects and is also used as a venue during the Fringe, the world’s largest Arts festival which takes place in Edinburgh each August.

One of the largest academic libraries in the world, the Main Library is home to over 3.5 million books and 500,000 e-books. Founded in 1580, the library moved to George Square in 1967, and has recently undergone a £60 million refurbishment. Facilities include group study pods, computer suites, and café. Located on the 3rd Floor, the Student Counselling, Careers and Disability Services provide advice and support for students on a range of matters all under one roof.

Continue around the south west corner of George Square.

As you walk past the Library, take a look to your left, you will see the Meadows, a green and leafy space popular with students. At number 19 you will pass the home of Islamic & Middle Eastern Studies and at number 25, you will find the Catholic Chaplaincy, which was once the boyhood home of Sir Walter Scott.

At the NW corner is the Chrystal Macmillan Building, home of the School of Social and Political Science. Chrystal Macmillan (1872-1937) was among the first women to graduate from the University and was the first female science graduate. Continue walking around the square.

Built in 1978 and named after the then University Principal, today this building is used largely for Biomedical Science teaching, whilst summer the gardens are a well-known festival venue with vibrant open-air café-bars and a range of performances.

Built in 1876, this was once George Watson’s Ladies’ College and was purchased by the University in 1973. Today the building is home to Psychology. Outside you will see the plaques for Robert Louis Stevenson: alumnus of the University, poet, and author; and Julius Kambangwa Nyerere: graduate of the University, African statesman, and first President of Tanzania.

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